

News Release

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BC’s Overall Grade Climbs to A in EPR Canada’s 2015 Scored Report Card on Implementation of Producer Responsibility Programs

BANFF, AB (October 1, 2015) – With initiatives that continue to push it ahead of other jurisdictions in Canada, the Province of British Columbia claimed the highest grade ever, an overall A, in EPR Canada’s third scored report card on implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs.

The report card assesses the progress each jurisdiction in Canada is making in adopting EPR policies and programs in compliance with their commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canada-wide Action Plan on EPR.

Close behind BC in this year’s assessment were Quebec, which shared top place with BC in the previous scored report card, and Manitoba. Individual scores with comparisons to 2013 were:

Jurisdiction	Scored Report Card Year*	
	2015	2013
British Columbia	A	B+
Quebec	B+	B+
Manitoba	B	B
Prince Edward Island	C+	C+
Ontario	C	C+
Nova Scotia	C-	C
Newfoundland and Labrador	D+	C-
New Brunswick	D	C
Saskatchewan	D	D
Alberta	F	D
Federal Government	F	F

** Weighting of scores has been adjusted over time to reflect expected evolution in program implementation from commitment to accountability. This may result in a lower score than in previous years for the same level of effort.*

BC’s top ranking score resulted from its progress in:

- Following the CCME’s CAP on EPR implementation schedule
- Utilizing a non-prescriptive, results-based regulation that assigns responsibility for end-of-life management to producers or their agents
- Including a pollution prevention hierarchy in the regulation with which producers are to manage environmental impacts of their products
- Expanding efforts to enforce producer compliance
- Requiring stewardship agencies to report using a standard template including third party audits of performance data
- Retaining a contractor to review third party audits and, based on the contractor’s assessment, providing feedback on performance gaps and recommending continuous improvement efforts for each stewardship program

“BC continues to set the pace for the rest of Canada in requiring producers to step up and take full responsibility for the consumer product they sell in the marketplace,” said Duncan Bury, co-founder and one of seven EPR Canada team members who have been involved in EPR issues in Canada for two decades.

EPR Canada/2

EPR Canada unveiled the results of its 2015 assessment at the joint Canadian Stewardship Council/Alberta Recycling Council of Ontario's conference at Banff. This is the third scored report card and fourth publication it has released since the first report card was published in 2012. Last year, in recognition that it takes time to develop and implement EPR policies and programs, EPR Canada published a summary report that monitored progress on the EPR front.

This year's report, along with all previous annual publications are posted on EPRC's website at www.eprcanada.ca. The next fully scored report card covering 2016 will be published in 2017.

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EPR Canada **Background**

EPR Canada assesses and grades each jurisdiction based on their response to the questions which reflect best practices for the development and implementation of EPR policies and programs under three categories:

- **Commitment** – indicators that a government, as a member of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), is following through on its commitment to adopt the principles of extended producer responsibility in compliance with the CCME Canada-wide Action Plan on EPR, and is developing EPR policies and programs
- **Implementation** – policies and practices that a government can implement to support producer performance
- **Accountability** – indicators that a government has mechanisms in place to measure and report on producer performance

Following the publication of the 2012 Report Card, EPR Canada introduced a progressive weighting of the scores assigned to each category to acknowledge the evolution of EPR in Canada from stewardship to partial EPR and then full EPR. Stewardship programs involve government roles in designing, operating and paying for programs while producers pay none or part of the costs. Full EPR involves having producers design, operate and finance end-of-life product and packaging programs.

Over the years of the report cards, "commitment" is allocated fewer points and "implementation" and "accountability" are allocated more points as governments make progress in the development of EPR programs.

The 2015 Report Card is the fourth of five annual ratings that EPR Canada is producing and publishing. The fifth and final report will be published in 2017 covering the 2016 program year.

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) defines extended producer responsibility as a policy approach in which a producer's responsibility, physical and/or financial, for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle, shifting it away from municipalities and regional waste authorities. It also encourages producers to incorporate environmental considerations in the design of their products. In a [Progress Report on the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility](#) that CCME released in August 2014, it noted that since the adoption of the Action Plan, "nine out of ten provinces have legislated EPR programs or requirements and the number of product categories covered by legislated EPR programs or requirements, both in effect or soon to be, has almost tripled."

EPR Canada is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2011. The goal of EPR Canada is to foster continued growth and improvement of EPR policies, programs and practices in Canada. Additional information about EPR Canada can be found on its website, www.eprcanada.ca

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[Communiquez avec Duncan Bury pour obtenir le communiqué en français.](#)

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